made the statement in the other House. If hon. Members wish, I can make it now. If they do not, then I can lay it on the Table of the House. That is the statement regarding the visit of the Chinese President.

The second thing is the reply to the debate. If hon. Members wish, I can reply today. Or, if they wish so, I can reply later whenever they want.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I suggest that the reply should be given today because we are delaying everthing and then we don't have time. I think the reply should be today. The Minister has to make a statement on the visit of the President of China. If the House so agrees, he can lay the statement on the Table of the House and then we will find time for clarifications. *(Interruptions)*. The meeting of the Business Advisory Committee has already been delayed. It has already been postponed for half an hour.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, we would like to hear his reply.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have already delayed the Business Advjsory Committee's meeting.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, if it possible, you may delay it for a little more time. This is my request, Madam.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN (Maharasthra): Madam, if the Minister wants to lay the statement on the Table of the House, let him do so. The clarifications can be sought later.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Gujral Sahib, you can lay the statement and the clarifications can be sought later. You can reply today if the House so wants. How much time will you take for the reply?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): Madam, the reply will take about 25 minutes.

उपसभापति: हाउस एडजोर्न नहीं होगा।

There is other business also. आप लोग तो चाहते हैं कि हाउस जल्दी एडजोर्न कर दें। काम तो करना ही पड़ता है। ..(व्यवधान).. आपकी देखा देखी सब कर रहे हैं। The country is beyond U.P. also. Then there are clarifications on Agriculture Minister's statement on drought in Orissa. I have to call him also. *...Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: But the Minister is not here.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He informed that he will come when he finishes his work there. The Minister of Civil Aviation also wanted to come. But we want to finsih this first. Let the Ministr reply. *...(Interruptions)...* We will feel happy if the Prime Minister has time to sit in his own House. Gujral Sahib, you can lay the statement and start the reply.

श्री एस॰ बी॰ चव्हाण: स्टेटमेंट की कापी तो दीजिये।

उपसभापति: जब करेंगे तब दे देंगे। Distribute the copies

STATEMENT BY MINISTER—

On Visit of President of people's Republic of China to India

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): Madam, with your permission, I lay on the Table my *suo motu* statement regarding the visit of the President of People's Republic of China to India from 5th Decemebr, 1996 to 8th December, 1996.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We will keep some other time for clarifications. Now, we can hava the reply.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Madam, may I have your permission?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Yes. Please go ahead. We are all here for your statement.